



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit

Communications & Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

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SRSJ Johnson warns against ethnic violence

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Hilde F. Johnson, calls on all South Sudanese and all parties in the current situation to refrain from any community motivated violence. As UNMISS has previously warned against any hate speech in relation to inter-communal violence in South Sudan, it is paramount that the current violence does not assume ethnic dimensions.

“At a time when unity among South Sudanese is more needed than ever, I call on the leaders of this new country and all political factions and parties, as well as community leaders to refrain from any action that fuels ethnic tensions and exacerbates violence, “ said the Special Representative.

South Sudan’s greatest asset is not only its resources, but its people and their diversity. Instead of being a force for division, diversity should be an asset of strength and a source of unity in the process of nation building. As South Sudan struggles to overcome the current crisis, the Mission urges all of its citizens and leaders to guard against any incendiary actions or violence against particular communities.

UNMISS again calls for restraint, and appeals to all to seek a peaceful conclusion to the current crisis. At this juncture, discipline, command and control in the security forces are also more important than ever.

The UN Mission continues to provide protection to civilians seeking refuge from the violence. As of early Tuesday morning, an estimated 10,000 civilians have received protection in the two UNMISS compounds in Juba. As of early Tuesday morning, the clinic at the Tomping compound had admitted 39 civilians admitted to medical treatment. They include five children. Three births occurred overnight at the clinic, whose patient caseload has already exceeded its maximum capacity of 35. The mission is taking every possible step to ensure their safety while they are staying on UNMISS premises.

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